

16 May 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training
FROM: [REDACTED], OTR/IS/OBF
SUBJECT: Vietnam Area Course No. 3-68

1. Basic Data

The third running of the Vietnam Area Course (VAC) was held 22-26 April 1968 in Room 1 A 07. There were 24 persons enrolled; 15 of these are heading for Saigon and 9 are Headquarters personnel. Happily, no changes in the schedule had to be made.

2. Outside Speakers

We had 4 outside speakers: [REDACTED] Mr. Marsh from the Department of State; and Colonel Dexter from the Department of Defense. [REDACTED] has proved such an effective speaker that I had him speak twice in this course and, hence, he was paid \$100.00, and [REDACTED] was paid \$50.00.

3. New Agency Speakers

a. I had two new speakers from within the Agency this time. The first was [REDACTED] whose experience in Vietnam has probably extended over as long a period of time, 1945 to the present, as that of anyone in the Agency. The second was [REDACTED] who was formerly the DDI representative in Saigon.

b. [REDACTED] spoke of some of his personal experiences in Vietnam in the period 1945 to 1954. He gave a particularly interesting account of two OSS missions into Indochina in 1945. He recounted how both he and [REDACTED] were parachuted, without the knowledge

25X1A9a of each other, into North Vietnam. Of
25X1A9a course, he indicated, trouble resulted; he
was "ambushed by [redacted] and both of us got
medals!" [redacted] speaking of basic
social problems in South Vietnam, stressed
the need to put things into perspective.
He stressed that South Vietnam is just one
of a hundred new developing nations, that
it has the same problems and difficulties
as other new nations, and that "it is no
worse than all the rest who go their foul
way without the light of publicity on them."

4. Critiques

- a. Critiques were received from 22 of the 24 students. Again they were asked to specify any disappointment with speakers or presentations. Again, as in the first and second runnings of this course, the sessions on language and religion were especially criticized.
- 25X1A9a b. Five persons thought that one of the two language sessions could be eliminated. My own feeling is that neither language instructor, either [redacted] has been able in the short time allotted to them, to generate a strong feeling for the language; this may be unfair to them, but I had hoped that the language instructor could get the students pronouncing Vietnamese in class, could get them to try to articulate the foreign sounds and get them over some of the initial hesitancy in wrestling with a new language. I think I may eliminate one of the two language sessions.
- 25X1A5a1 c. [redacted] speaking on religion, has really not proved satisfactory and I shall probably not use him again, although the subject is one that must be covered and an outsider will have to be found. [redacted] was criticized by six people. He is not too well organized or too effective a speaker, but the thing that seems to nettle some people is what they consider an interjection of his own personal
- 25X1A5a1

25X1A5a1 opinions. The personal opinion is a strong conviction that the United States Government has not properly used the Buddhist monk as a vehicle of social change and political activity in South Vietnam. I suspect it is not [REDACTED] opinion that annoys so much as it is the manner in which he does it; he seems too much of a "special pleader."

25X1A9a d. Several other speakers drew mild individual criticisms, and these are not worth singling out here. Unfortunately, [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
[REDACTED] Chief and Deputy Chief, respectively, of VNO, were criticized by three or four people. [REDACTED] is not a strong 25X1A9a
25X1A9a speaker, though I think he had made some progress in recent months. The reaction to [REDACTED] is more surprising to me; while he is not a dynamic speaker, he is reflective, and it may be that some found him hard to follow.

[REDACTED] 25X1A9a

Course Chairman

25X1A9a

[REDACTED]

Chief, Intelligence School

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